

# Chapter Five

## *Conservation Challenges Facing Iowa's Wildlife and Habitats*

**Required Element #3: “Descriptions of problems which may adversely affect the state’s wildlife species identified in required element #1 or their habitats...”**

### **Assessing Threats to Iowa’s Wildlife and Habitats**

IDNR fisheries and wildlife biologists, and Implementation Committee and Working Group members that had the appropriate expertise and experience identified and evaluated the most important problems facing Iowa’s wildlife today. Four threat levels – Low, Medium, High, or Very High – were used to evaluate the relative importance of each threat, taking into account both the scope and the severity of each threat (Table 5-1).

Separate evaluations were made for each taxonomic class (Chapter 3, Table 3-1) and each habitat class (Chapter 4, Table 4-1 and Table 4-5).

**Table 5-1. Definitions of Threat Levels (after the International Union for Conservation of Nature [IUCN] Threat Classification System for calculating threat impact scores).**

Threat Impact Calculation		Scope			
Severity		Pervasive	Large	Restricted	Small
	Extreme	Very High	High	Medium	Low
	Serious	High	High	Medium	Low
	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
	Slight	Low	Low	Low	Low

The items on the list represent *potential* threats, which require interpretation based on the biology of the species or habitats being evaluated. The list of threats should not be interpreted as a list of things that are bad for wildlife. Rather, it is a framework from which to evaluate potential threats, stresses, or conservation challenges for wildlife for the purpose of identifying the most effective means of conserving healthy wildlife populations.

## Defining Threats

In 2002, a coalition of global conservation practitioners joined together and formed the Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP). The Partnership's mission is to 'advance the practice of conservation by developing, testing, and promoting principles and tools to credibly assess and improve the effectiveness of conservation actions. The partnership includes non-governmental conservation organizations such as National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund, as well as governmental entities such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. You can read more about the Partnership at their website: <http://www.conservationmeasures.org/>.

In 2004, CMP developed the first edition of the "Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation" which has since been updated in 2007 and 2013.

One outcome of this partnership that is also a building block for increasing collaboration is the development of a "standard lexicon" for conservation, including a taxonomy, or hierarchy, of threats and conservation actions (Salafsky et al. 2008). Adopting the use of the standard terminology allows conservationists operating at any spatial scale to share information and experiences, facilitating learning and improvement among conservation practitioners. The 2015 revision of the IWAP makes use of this standard lexicon for the classification of threats and actions in order to increase the ability of our threats and actions to be compared across state lines or other political boundaries. This helps make clear how the IWAP fits in as one piece of regional, national, or even global efforts to conserve wildlife. Aside from a small number of additions, the use of this taxonomy does not substantially change the threats listed in the 2012 or 2006 versions of the IWAP; rather, it clarifies some of them and re-organizes them into a multilevel system. Before listing these threats, it will be helpful to review relevant definitions which describe the general elements of conservation projects. These definitions will be relevant to this chapter as well as the following chapter which addresses conservation actions.

**Definitions** (adapted from Salafsky et al. 2008):

- *Focal Conservation Target or Biodiversity Target*: The biological entities (species, communities, or ecosystems) that a project is trying to conserve (e.g., a population of a specific species of fish or a forest ecosystem). Some practitioners also include ecological and evolutionary phenomena and processes (e.g., migration, speciation) as targets.
- *Stresses*: Attributes of a conservation target's ecology that are impaired directly or indirectly by human activities (e.g., reduced population size or fragmentation of forest habitat). A stress is not a threat in and of itself, but rather a degraded condition or "symptom" of the target that results from a direct threat.

- *Direct Threats:* The proximate human activities or processes that have caused, are causing, or may cause the destruction, degradation, and/or impairment of focal conservation targets (e.g., unsustainable fishing or logging). Direct threats are synonymous with *sources of stress* and *proximate pressures*. Threats can be past (historical), ongoing, and/or likely to occur in the future. Natural phenomena are also regarded as direct threats in some situations.
- *Contributing Factors:* The underlying factors, usually social, economic, political, institutional, or cultural, that enable or otherwise add to the occurrence or persistence of proximate direct threats. There is typically a chain of contributing factors behind any given direct threat.
- *Conservation Actions:* Interventions undertaken by conservationists designed to achieve conservation goals (e.g., establishing an ecotourism business or setting up a protected area). Actions can be applied to contributing factors, direct threats, or directly to the targets themselves.
- *Project Teams:* The groups of people involved in designing, implementing, managing, and monitoring projects (e.g., a partnership between a local nongovernmental organization and a community or the staff of a national park).

### Threats Taxonomy

Appendix 20 displays the full list and definitions of Level I and II Threats, as developed for the global conservation community by the Conservation Measures Partnership. Several of the threats included in the full list are, thankfully, not relevant or exceedingly improbable in Iowa within the next few decades (e.g. Geological Events such as Volcanoes or Avalanches). Table 5.2 lists these threats and provides examples and explanations relevant to Iowa.

For those threats that are negligible in Iowa (e.g. tsunamis and avalanches), The “Scope” portion of the assessments address the low likelihood or limited spatial distribution of these issues in Iowa. The “Severity” portion of the threat assessments take into account the *potential* impact that could occur. Thus, several items that appear clearly detrimental to wildlife will still be rated as “negligible” if they do not occur on at least 1% of Iowa’s landscape currently and have a low likelihood of occurring over the next 10-20 years.

**Table 5-2. Threat taxonomy for Iowa's wildlife and habitats.**

<b>Threats</b>	<b><u>Iowa-specific explanations and examples</u></b>
<b>1. Residential &amp; Commercial Development</b>	<b>Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint.</b>
1.1 Housing & Urban Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of natural vegetation to residential uses, resulting in less area for wildlife to occupy.</li> <li>• As amount of impervious surfaces increase, the amount of land with infiltration capacity is reduced, causing stormwater runoff to end up in rivers and streams.</li> <li>• Changes to shorelines of waterbodies that may result in loss of vegetation and increased bank erosion.</li> </ul>
1.2 Commercial & Industrial Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of natural vegetation to industrial uses, resulting in less area for wildlife to occupy and reduction of infiltration capacity of land as impervious surfaces increase.</li> </ul>
1.3 Tourism & Recreation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation or destruction of habitat for the purpose of fulfilling recreational goals in an area and the increased risk of negative human-wildlife interactions associated with human use of an area. The threats associated with this vary in severity depending on recreational goals. For example, the landscape changes and land use practices associated with golf courses have a more significant impact on wildlife than hiking trails.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Agriculture &amp; Aquaculture</b>	<b>Threats from farming and ranching as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture.</b>
2.1 Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large fields lacking natural vegetation cover (exposing bare soil) for many months of the year, and supporting corn and soybeans during the growing season.</li> <li>• Fragmentation of large tracts of a given habitat type into smaller areas.</li> <li>• Loss of connectivity by the introduction of breaks into linear habitats that had previously connected areas of habitat to each other.</li> <li>• The removal of vegetation in or adjacent to bodies of water which may lead to increased flooding, siltation, and water temperatures.</li> <li>• Removal of wildlife species associated with negative impacts on agricultural productivity.</li> </ul>
2.2 Wood & Pulp Plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stands of trees planted for wood or pulp industries. Assessments reflect the relatively small scope and <i>potential</i> severity of the wood and pulp industry, which is currently very limited in Iowa.</li> </ul>

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Iowa-specific explanations and examples</b>
2.3 Livestock Farming & Ranching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of grazing in such a way that it is detrimental to wildlife, for example, using too heavy of a stocking rate, grazing too early or late in the growing season resulting in habitat loss, including loss of residual winter cover for wildlife and alteration of the species composition of pastures and woodlands.</li> <li>• Physical damage to stream banks and riparian vegetation caused by livestock which increases the risk of erosion in an area.</li> </ul>
2.4 Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts of stocking predatory fishes on populations of other fishes, amphibians, and dragonflies and damselflies.</li> <li>• Removal of predators to fish such as otters.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Energy Production &amp; Mining</b>	<b>Threats from production of non-biological resources.</b>
3.1 Oil & Gas Drilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring for, developing, and producing oil or gas. Assessments reflect the relatively small scope and <i>potential</i> severity of the oil and gas drilling industry, which is currently very limited in Iowa</li> </ul>
3.2 Mining & Quarrying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock/gravel mines can open up suitable habitat for some species but destroy suitable habitat for others through forest clearing, earth removal, and water collection on site.</li> <li>• Frack sand mine development.</li> </ul>
3.3 Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind energy development that reduces the suitability of habitat by altering how wildlife uses an area and causes direct mortalities through collisions (esp. birds and bats) of wildlife with wind turbines.</li> <li>• Corn ethanol production (leading to increased acres in corn). Removal of corn stover from cropfields for biofuel production, use of non-native plants for biofuel development, harvest of native grasses for biofuel production.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Transportation &amp; Service Corridors</b>	<b>Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality.</b>
4.1 Roads & Railroads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation, and the opening of blocks of habitat to detrimental intrusions.</li> <li>• Direct mortality of wildlife being struck by vehicles.</li> <li>• Increased risk to habitat of spills on roadways or railroads and restriction of potential for habitat restoration in an area.</li> </ul>
4.2 Utility & Service Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat associated with opening up an area for erecting wires and constructing service roads.</li> <li>• Direct mortality through collisions of wildlife with wires (esp. birds).</li> </ul>

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Iowa-specific explanations and examples</b>
4.3 Shipping Lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dredging to maintain shipping channels. Development of shipping lanes was the primary reason for channelization of the Missouri River and development of the lock and dam system in the Mississippi River, altering the natural processes of Iowa's border rivers.</li> </ul>
4.4 Flight Paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destruction and fragmentation of habitat that occurs when establishing an airport.</li> <li>Removal of species that may attempt to use an airport facility for breeding or foraging.</li> <li>Restriction of habitat restoration potential associated with an area near an airport due to efforts to prevent wildlife related accidents on site.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Biological Resource Use</b>	<b>Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species.</b>
5.1 Hunting and Collecting Terrestrial Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illegal taking of any species as well as illegal pet trade (especially pertaining to turtles).</li> </ul>
5.2 Gathering Terrestrial Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gathering plants from natural areas impacting the natural vegetation.</li> </ul>
5.3 Logging & Wood Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timber harvest is not a threat <i>per se</i>, but the method, extent, and timing of harvest may affect the habitat available for wildlife, particularly SGCN.</li> </ul>
5.4 Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detrimental over-use of aquatic species for recreational or commercial purposes.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Human Intrusions &amp; Disturbance</b>	<b>Threats from human activities that alter, destroy and disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources.</b>
6.1 Recreational Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detrimental over-use of natural areas that degrades wildlife habitat or deters wildlife from using an area.</li> <li>Recreational activities conducted outside of designated areas that destroys sensitive habitat.</li> <li>Direct wildlife mortality through collisions with motor-boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc.</li> </ul>
6.2 War, Civil Unrest & Military Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments reflect the relatively small scope and <i>potential</i> severity of war and military exercises, which is currently very limited in Iowa.</li> </ul>
6.3 Work & Other Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mowing of roadways or other grasslands, planting, cultivation, harvesting of crop fields.</li> </ul>

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Iowa-specific explanations and examples</b>
<b>7. Natural Systems Modification</b>	<b>Threats from actions that convert or degrade habitat in service of “managing” natural or semi-natural systems, often to improve human welfare.</b>
7.1 Fire & Fire Suppression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excessive or untimely fire management that may kill individual animals, destroy habitats or alter habitats at critical life stages for SGCN.</li> <li>• The removal of fire as a natural succession resulting in the conversion of grasslands to woody habitat containing shrubs or trees.</li> </ul>
7.2 Dams & Water Management/Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of surface water from lakes and wetlands (and associated alteration of water table and groundwater flows).</li> <li>• The inundation of terrestrial habitats caused by man-made dams and the alteration of natural seasonal occurrence of floods associated with these structures.</li> <li>• Structures on flowing rivers and streams that impound water, resulting in altered aquatic habitats, decreased flow rates and increased siltation above the structure as well as creating a barrier to fish movement.</li> <li>• 95% of pothole wetlands drained and converted to agriculture.</li> <li>• Channelization - The straightening of stream channels leading to decreased stream lengths, increased flow rates, and increased frequency of flooding.</li> <li>• Shoreline/bank erosion – siltation originating from the bank or shoreline of a body of water.</li> <li>• Loss of submerged/emergent plants – the loss of rooted plants in the water that may result in altered aquatic habitats.</li> <li>• Streambed degradation - the lowering of the bed of a flowing body of water due to increased scouring action resulting from increased flow rates and altered hydrology.</li> </ul>
7.3 Other Ecosystem Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rip rap along shorelines of rivers and lakes, removal of snag trees from woodlands or from river and streams removing habitat for fish and wildlife.</li> </ul>
7.4 Removing/Reducing Human Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of management on Iowa’s wetlands, grasslands, and forests leads to succession and invasive species encroachment.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Invasive &amp; Other Problematic Species &amp; Genes</b>	<b>Threats from non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes, or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following their introduction, spread and/or increase in abundance</b>
8.1 Invasive Non-Native/Alien Plants & Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proliferation of non-native species that outcompete or prey upon native species, or cause habitat degradation (e.g. feral hogs destroying habitat, household pets preying on wildlife, zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species outcompeting native aquatic species, exotic honeysuckle outcompeting native species, Emerald Ash Borer altering woodlands by killing ash trees, etc.).</li> </ul>

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Iowa-specific explanations and examples</b>
8.2 Problematic Native Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proliferation of native species that outcompete or prey upon other species, or cause habitat degradation (e.g. insect damage, encroachment of native woody species into grasslands, willows or cottonwood trees into wetlands, over-abundance of mesopredators impacting other species reproduction or survival, etc.).</li> </ul>
8.3 Introduced Genetic Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of pesticide resistance genes spreading to non-target species, genetic swamping of local populations through releases of lab-raised individuals (e.g. release of butterflies at special events), habitat restoration projects using non-local seed stock, genetically modified insects for biocontrol, genetically modified trees.</li> </ul>
8.4 Pathogens & Microbes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disease and pathogens that affect wildlife and their habitats (e.g. Chytrid fungus affecting amphibians, White-nose Syndrome decimating bat populations, highly pathogenic avian influenza in birds, chronic wasting disease in cervids, chronic wasting disease prions adhering to plants, oak wilt, burr oak blight, and dutch elm disease)</li> </ul>
<b>9. Pollution</b>	<b>Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and nonpoint sources</b>
9.1 Household Sewage & Urban Waste Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrient pollution – the excessive addition of nutrients into aquatic systems leading to accelerated eutrophication.</li> <li>Chemical pollution - the introduction of harmful chemicals into aquatic ecosystems.</li> </ul>
9.2 Industrial & Military Effluents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemical pollution - the introduction of harmful chemicals into aquatic ecosystems. Risk of oil spills from pipelines.</li> </ul>
9.3 Agricultural & Forestry Effluents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deposition of silt and sand sediments in aquatic ecosystems.</li> <li>Excessive addition of nutrients into aquatic systems leading to accelerated eutrophication.</li> <li>Pesticides or herbicides applied to agricultural crops that eventually end up in aquatic ecosystems. These products can have direct impacts on animals (eg. Atrazine causing deformities in amphibians) or indirectly affect wildlife by harming the plants that comprise their habitat.</li> <li>Tile drainage of agricultural fields leading to accelerated transport of surface water to rivers and lakes that decreases the ability of hydrological systems to tolerate large fluctuations in precipitation.</li> </ul>
9.4 Garbage & Solid Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Garbage and waste that is improperly disposed of and ends up in the natural environment posing a risk for wildlife and their habitats, (e.g. lead from ammunition, fishing tackle, or other sources being ingested by wildlife directly or by being taken up by plants in the environment, improperly discarded fishing line or other debris entangling wildlife).</li> </ul>
9.5 Air-Borne Pollutants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerial application of pesticides in agricultural or urban/suburban areas and associated spray drift that ends up in areas that were not intended to be treated or affects non-target species.</li> </ul>



<b>Threats</b>	<b>Iowa-specific explanations and examples</b>
9.6 Excess Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential impacts of heated effluents discharged to Iowa's interior and border rivers, light pollution (eg. attracting insects to unproductive areas such as gas stations), sound pollution from airports, highways, or other sources.</li> </ul>
<b>10. Geological Events</b>	<b>Threats from catastrophic geological events</b>
10.1 Volcanoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments reflect the relatively negligible scope and <i>potential</i> severity of volcanic activity, which is currently improbable in Iowa (although even distant volcanic activity could impact Iowa).</li> </ul>
10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments reflect the relatively negligible scope and <i>potential</i> severity of earthquakes, which are currently infrequent and mild in Iowa.</li> </ul>
10.3 Avalanches/Landslides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments reflect the relatively negligible scope and <i>potential</i> severity of avalanches, which are currently improbable in Iowa given the relative lack of topographic relief in the state.</li> </ul>
<b>11. Climate Change and Severe Weather</b>	<b>Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events that are outside of the natural range of variation, or potentially can wipe out a vulnerable species or habitat</b>
11.1 Ecosystem Encroachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As ranges of plant species contract, expand or shift, the plant communities that wildlife inhabit will change, and could encroach upon adjacent systems.</li> </ul>
11.2 Changes in Geochemical Regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the Midwest, summertime precipitation has become more variable, leading to more frequent periods of drought and more frequent intense rainfall events.</li> </ul>
11.3 Changes in Temperature Regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad scale changes in temperature, fluctuations or extremes in temperatures in a geographical area. Even small increases in mean temperature are correlated with more frequent extreme temperature events. In Iowa, temperature increases have been more pronounced in winter and during nighttime.</li> </ul>
11.4 Changes in Precipitation & Broad-Scale Hydrological Regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad scale changes in precipitation, fluctuations or extremes in precipitation in a geographical area.</li> <li>Increases in mean precipitation have been most pronounced in the spring, and have been manifested through increasing frequency of intense precipitation events. In the Midwest, summertime precipitation has become more variable, leading to more frequent periods of drought and more frequent intense rainfall events. Intense precipitation events increase soil erosion and flood risk.</li> </ul>
11.5 Severe/Extreme Weather Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluctuations or extremes in precipitation in a geographical area (e.g., thunderstorms, tornadoes, ice storms, blizzards, dust storms).</li> </ul>

**Table 5-4. Threats to Terrestrial Wildlife (averaged over all habitat classes).**

Impact level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

THREAT	AMPHIBIANS	BIRDS	BUTTERFLIES	MAMMALS	REPTILES	TERREST- RIAL SNAILS	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M		L	L	M-L	M	
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	M		M	H	H-M	M	
3. Energy Production & Mining	L		L	L	L	L	
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	M		L	M	H-M	M	
5. Biological Resource Use	L		L	L	M	H	
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	M-L		L	L	H-M	L	
7. Natural Systems Modification	H		M	H	H	M	
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	M		M	M	M	M	
9. Pollution	M		M	M	M	L	
10. Geological Events	-		-	-	-	-	
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	M		H	M	M	H	

**Table 5-5. Threats to Aquatic Wildlife (averaged over all habitat classes).**

Impact level: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

THREAT	CRAYFISH	DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES	FISH	MUSSELS	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M	L	H	M	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	H	M	H	VH	H
3. Energy Production & Mining	L	L	M	L	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	L	L	L	H	M-L
5. Biological Resource Use	L	L	L	M	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	-	L	L	L	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	VH	H	VH	VH	VH
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	H	L	H	M	M
9. Pollution	M	M	M	H	M
10. Geological Events	-	-	-	-	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H-M	H	H	H	H

**Table 5-6. Statewide Threats to Amphibians**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)  
Threats were assessed for habitat classes considered most relevant to amphibians.

LEVEL I THREATS	WOODLAND	GRASSLAND	WETLAND	ROWCROP	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	H	M	L	L	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	M	VH	H	-	M
3. Energy Production & Mining	L	L	L	-	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	M	M	H	L	M
5. Biological Resource Use	L	L	M	-	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	L	L	-	VH	M-L
7. Natural Systems Modification	H	M	H	VH	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	H	L	H	Unknown	M
9. Pollution	M	L	H	M	M
10. Geological Events	-	-	-	-	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	L	H	H-M	H	M
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>M</b>	

**Table 5-7. Statewide Threats to Reptiles**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)  
Threats were assessed for habitat classes considered most relevant to reptiles.

LEVEL I THREATS	WOODLAND	GRASSLAND	WETLAND	ROWCROP	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M	M	L	L	M-L
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	H	VH	H	-	H-M
3. Energy Production & Mining	L	M	L	-	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	H	H	H	L	H-M
5. Biological Resource Use	L	H	H	-	M
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	M	H	L	VH	H-M
7. Natural Systems Modification	H	VH	H	M	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	H	H	H-L	Unknown	M
9. Pollution	L	M	H	L	M
10. Geological Events	-	-	-	-	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	M	M	H-M	M	M
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	

**Table 5-8. Statewide Threats to Birds**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

Threats were assessed for habitat classes considered most relevant to birds.

LEVEL I THREATS	WOODLAND	SHRUBLAND	GRASSLAND	WETLAND	ROWCROP	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M	M	L			
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	H	H	VH			
3. Energy Production & Mining	L	-	M			
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	H	M	M			
5. Biological Resource Use	H-M	L	-			
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	M	L	H			
7. Natural Systems Modification	H	H	VH			
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	H	H	VH			
9. Pollution	H	M	H			
10. Geological Events	-	-	-			
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	M	M	H			
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>VH</b>			

**Table 5-9. Statewide Threats to Butterflies**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

Threats were assessed for habitat classes considered most relevant to butterflies.

LEVEL I THREATS	WOODLAND	GRASSLAND	WETLAND	ROWCROP	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	L	L	L	L	L
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	L	VH	H	Not a Threat	M
3. Energy Production & Mining	L	L	L	-	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	L	M	L	L	L
5. Biological Resource Use	L	L	L	-	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	-	L	L	M	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	M	H	H	L	M
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	L	M	H	Unknown	M
9. Pollution	L	H	H	M-L	M
10. Geological Events	-	-	-	-	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	M	H-M	H	H	H
<b>Overall Threat</b>	L	VH	H	M	

**Table 5-10. Statewide Threats to Crayfish**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

Threats were assessed for all aquatic habitat classes together, which was considered most relevant to crayfish.

LEVEL I THREATS	ALL AQUATIC HABITATS
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	H
3. Energy Production & Mining	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	L
5. Biological Resource Use	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	-
7. Natural Systems Modification	VH
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	H
9. Pollution	M
10. Geological Events	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H-M
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>H</b>

**Table 5-11. Statewide Threats to Dragonflies & Damselflies**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

Threats were assessed for habitat classes considered most relevant to Dragonflies & Damselflies.

LEVEL I THREATS	RIVERS	WOODLAND	GRASSLAND	WETLAND	ROWCROP	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	L	M	M	L	-	L
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	L	H	VH	VH	-	M
3. Energy Production & Mining	L	L	M	L	-	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	L	-	L	M	Not a Threat	L
5. Biological Resource Use	L	L	-	-	-	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	-	-	L	-	L	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	H	-	M	VH	VH	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	-	-	-	M	-	L
9. Pollution	VH	-	L	H	L	M
10. Geological Events	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H	H	H	H	H	H
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>L</b>	



**Table 5-12. Statewide Threats to Fish**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)  
Threats were assessed for all aquatic habitat classes together, which was considered most relevant to fish.

THREAT	ALL AQUATIC HABITATS
1. Residential & Commercial Development	H
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	H
3. Energy Production & Mining	M
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	L
5. Biological Resource Use	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	VH
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	H
9. Pollution	M
10. Geological Events	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>VH</b>

**Table 5-13. Statewide Threats to Mammals**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)

Threats were assessed for habitat classes considered most relevant to mammals.

LEVEL I THREATS	RIVERS	WOODLAND	GRASSLAND	WETLAND	ROWCROP	MEAN
1. Residential & Commercial Development	L	M	L	L	L	L
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	VH	H	VH	VH	Not a Threat	H
3. Energy Production & Mining	-	L	L	L	L	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	L	M	M	M	L	M
5. Biological Resource Use	-	H-L	L	-	-	L
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	-	M	M	-	M	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	H	M	H	VH	L	H
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	L	M	H	L	M	M
9. Pollution	H	L	L	H	L	M
10. Geological Events	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H	Not a significant impact within next 10 years	M	H-M	L	M
<b>Overall Threat</b>	M	M	H	H	L	

**Table 5-14. Statewide Threats to Mussels**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)  
Threats were assessed for all aquatic habitat classes combined which is considered most relevant to mussels.

THREAT	ALL AQUATIC HABITATS
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	VH
3. Energy Production & Mining	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	H
5. Biological Resource Use	M
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	VH
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	M
9. Pollution	H
10. Geological Events	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>VH</b>

**Table 5-15. Driftless Area Threats to Terrestrial Snails**

**Impact level:** L = Low, M = Medium, H = High, VH = Very High (Negligible threats demarked with a dash)  
Threats were assessed for the woodland habitat class, which is the most relevant to terrestrial snails.

LEVEL I THREATS	WOODLAND
1. Residential & Commercial Development	M
2. Agriculture & Aquaculture	M
3. Energy Production & Mining	L
4. Transportation & Service Corridors	M
5. Biological Resource Use	H
6. Human Intrusions & Disturbance	L
7. Natural Systems Modification	M
8. Invasive & Other Problematic Species & Genes	M
9. Pollution	L
10. Geological Events	-
11. Climate Change & Severe Weather	H
<b>Overall Threat</b>	<b>H</b>